

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OPR-02 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 122712

R 141309Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6534

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5574

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION EARLY NOVEMBER

REF: SANTIAGO 5389; SANTIAGO A-218

1. SUMMARY. IN FIRST 10 DAYS NOVEMBER GOC CLAIMED FULL CONTROL OF COUNTRY, WITH OUTBREAKS EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES AND DISCOVERIES OF ARMS ON DECLINE. BUT 10 EXECUTIONS REPORTED, AND ATTACK BY ORGANIZED GROUP ON MILITARY BASE TOOK PLACE NOV 11 AT TEMUCO. TOTAL EXECUTIONS ANNOUNCED BY GOC SINCE SEPT 11 NOW OVER 100, WITH ANOTHER 40 ORE MORE "SHOT TRYING TO ESCAPE." CAMP BEING ESTABLISHED IN NORTHERN DESERT FOR PRISONERS EVACUATED FROM NATIONAL STADIUM IN SANTIAGO. END SUMMARY.

2. MININTERIOR BONILLA TOLD PRESS NOV 5 THAT SITUATION IN CHILE UNDER CONTROL, WITH OUTBREAKS OF EXTREMIST ACTIVITY AND THE UNCOVERING OF ARMS CACHES DECLINING. CITED SHORTENING OF CURFEW IN SANTIAGO, NOW FROM 2300 TO 0600, AS EVIDENCE IMPROVEMENT SECURITY. NATIONAL STADIUM NOW CLEARED OF ALL PRISONERS, WITH ABOUT 900 SENT TO DETENTION CAMP IN FORMER NITRATE MINE WORKS AT CHACABUCO IN DESERT INLAND FROM ANTOFAGASTA. ANOTHER 550 REMAIN IN JAILS IN SANTIAGO.

3. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING ARMS RAIDS, DISCOVERY OF ALLEGED
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EXTREMIST HIDEOUTS, DETENTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF ARMS LAWS AND

CURFEW, AND SENTENCINGS BY MILITARY COURTS FOR VARIOUS OFFENSES, WHICH CALL INTO SOME QUESTION BONILLA ASSERTIONS, GOC REPORTED TEN MORE EXECUTIONS. SIX WERE SHOT IN PUERTO MONTT ABOUT NOV 6 AFTER TRIAL, AND FOUR OFFICIALS OF SOCIALIST PARTY, INCLUDING REGIONAL SECRETARY, WERE EXECUTED IN IQUIQUE ABOUT NOV 4, BOTH GROUPS ON CHARGES INVOLVING ATTACKS ON AUTHORITIES AND ARMS VIOLATIONS.

4. FIRST ORGANIZED ATTACK AGAINST MILITARY INSTALLATION SINCE FIRST DAYS AFTER COUP TOOK PLACE IN EARLY MORNING HOURS NOV 11 AT TEMUCO. GROUP ESTIMATED AT 20 MEN ATTACKED AMMUNITION STORES OF TUCAPEL REGIMENT WITH GRENADES, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. ATTACK REPULSED WITH SEVEN TERRORISTS KILLED, TWO CAPTURED, OTHERS BELIEVED WOUNDED. MILITARY ADMIT NO LOSSES. TEMUCO IS CAPITAL OF CAUTIN PROVINCE, KNOWN IN PAST AS MIR STRONGHOLD.

5. CURFEW IN SANTIAGO STILL TIGHTLY ENFORCED, WITH RANDOM SHOTS AND ISOLATED EXCHANGES OF FIRE HEARD AROUND CITY AT NIGHT.

6. ROBERTO THIEME, LEADER OF ULTRA-RIGHTIST TERRORIST GROUP PATRIA Y LIBERTAD CAPTURED BY ALLENDE GOVT SHORTLY BEFORE COUP, APPARENTLY WILL BE FREED. APPEALS COURT HAS DISMISSED CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY ALLENDE GOVT, AFTER MININTERIOR BONILLA NOTIFIED COURT THAT PRESENT GOVT WILL NOT PRESS CHARGES.

7. TWO MYSTERIOUS KIDNAPPINGS IN SANTIAGO, ONE EVIDENTLY INVOLVING BOLIVIAN POLITICS AND MOTIVATION OF OTHER UNCLEAR, DO NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE WORK OF LEFT EXTREMISTS (SEE SANTIAGO 5419 AND 5542).
THOMPSON

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